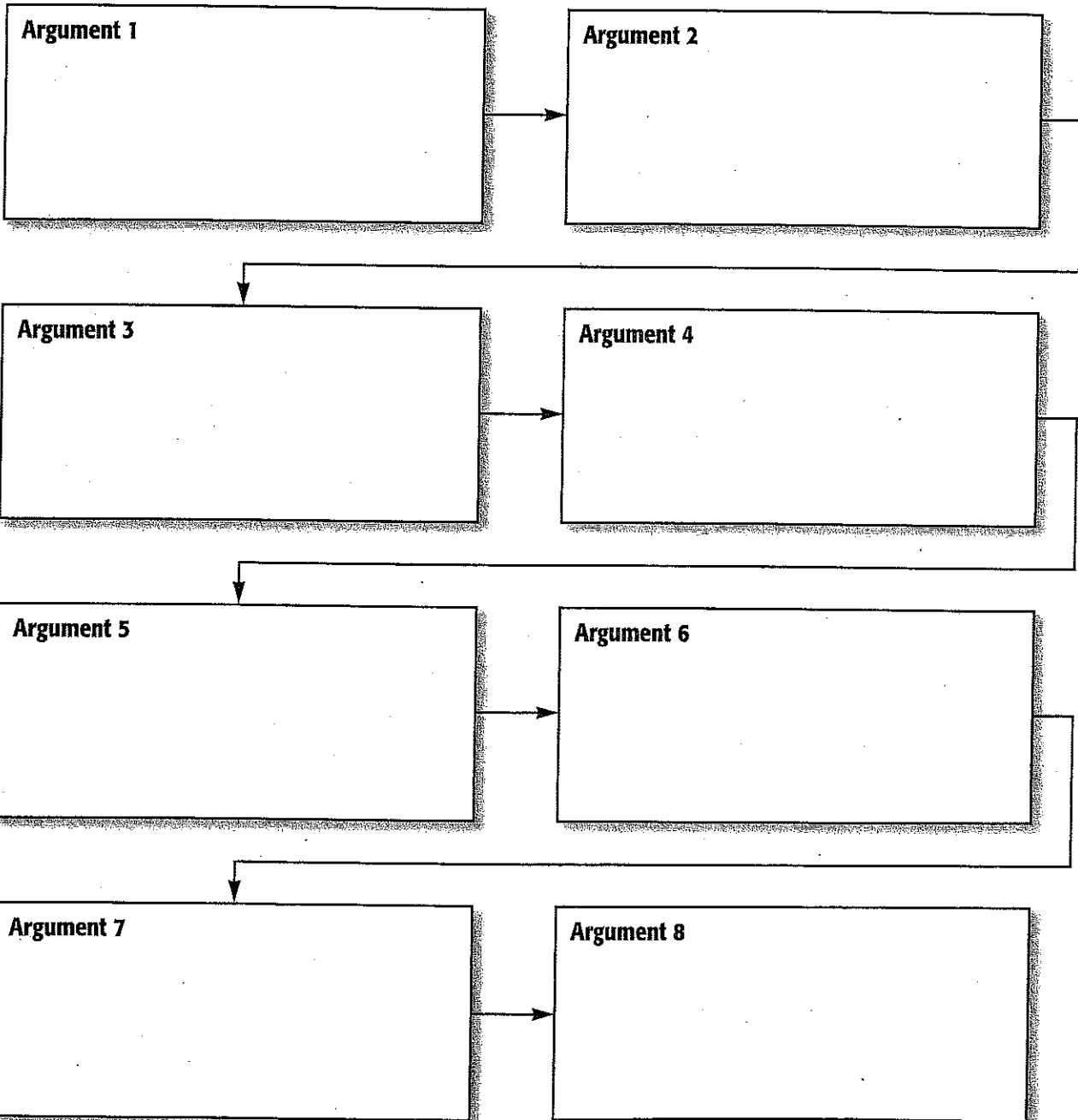


Active READING GUIDE



from ***Speech to the Second Virginia Convention*** by Patrick Henry (page 147)

Patrick Henry's speech is often considered a powerful call to arms. As you read it, notice that Henry tries to convert his listeners to his point of view. Use the flowchart below to write down eight of Henry's arguments as he moves from one point to the next. Try to identify key sentences in the speech. When the task is complete, you will have an outline of his overall argument.



Vo·cab·u·lar·y

PRACTICE

Speech to the Second Virginia Convention (page 146)

VOCABULARY

arduous *adj.* requiring great exertion or endurance;
difficult
insidious *adj.* slyly treacherous and deceitful; deceptive
subjugation *n.* act of bringing under control; domination

remonstrate *v.* to object; to protest
spurn *v.* to reject with disdain
inevitable *adj.* incapable of being avoided or evaded

EXERCISE A Words in Context

Write the word from the word list that belongs in the blank in each sentence.

1. In a hidden location, the spies were making secret, _____ plans.
2. If factory conditions remain unsafe, workers will _____.
3. Requiring incredible strength and stamina, the climb will be _____.
4. She rudely ignored my offer of friendship. Why did she _____ me?
5. An accident on Southern Boulevard has made delays _____.
6. The dictator sent in armed troops to force the people into _____.

EXERCISE B Applying Meanings

Write the vocabulary word that could replace the word or phrase in **bold type** in each sentence.

1. He came into the company with one goal: to have total governance over the entire staff. _____
2. Why you **devious**, conniving person! After what you've done, I won't have anything more to do with you. _____
3. This job is going to be **really tough**! It would be a challenge for two people, and I have to do it alone. _____
4. Tell Eduardo that I don't want to forgive him. I'll **turn down** any friendly gesture he makes toward me. _____

EXERCISE C Synonyms and Antonyms

On the line, write whether the pairs of words are **synonyms** (words with nearly the same meanings) or **antonyms** (words with nearly opposite meanings).

1. spurn — accept _____
2. remonstrate — approve _____
3. arduous — laborious _____

EXERCISE D Responding to the Selection

Imagine that you were suddenly transported to the Second Virginia Convention. On the back of this sheet, write an explanation of why you think you would or would not respond favorably to Patrick Henry's call to arms. Use at least **FOUR** of the vocabulary words in your explanations.

**Selection
Vocabulary
Test**

NAME _____

CLASS _____ DATE _____ SCORE _____

Patrick Henry *Speech in the Virginia Convention*

(Page 90)

VOCABULARY TEST

A. Match each word in column I with the correct definition in column II. Place the letter of each definition you choose in the space provided. (5 points each)

I

II

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| _____ 1. supplicate | a. watchful |
| _____ 2. avert | b. to object |
| _____ 3. remonstrate | c. to minimize the seriousness of |
| _____ 4. prostrate | d. indecisive |
| _____ 5. inviolate | e. to agree |
| _____ 6. irresolute | f. not violated; whole |
| _____ 7. supine | g. to kneel in humility |
| _____ 8. delusive | h. false |
| _____ 9. vigilant | i. lying down; passive |
| _____ 10. extenuate | j. to prevent |
| | k. to humbly request |

B. Match each word in column I with the correct definition in column II. Place the letter of each definition you choose in the space provided. (5 points each)

I

II

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| _____ 1. siren | a. to bring to agreement or friendship |
| _____ 2. temporal | b. an impressive military grouping |
| _____ 3. solace | c. a mythic creature, part woman and part bird, whose beautiful singing lured sailors to their destruction |
| _____ 4. insidious | d. earthly |
| _____ 5. comport | e. warlike |
| _____ 6. reconcile | f. comfort |
| _____ 7. subjugate | g. treacherous; deceptive |
| _____ 8. martial | h. to make a slave of |
| _____ 9. array | i. pleading |
| _____ 10. entreaty | j. to agree |

Speech to the Second Virginia Convention

Interacting with Text Identifying Persuasive Techniques

Speakers and writers use **persuasive techniques** to convince their listeners or readers of their views. These techniques include **loaded language** (words that have strong positive or negative connotations), **rhetorical questions** (questions asked for effect with no expectation of an answer), and **figures of speech** (nonliteral comparisons).

EXERCISE A. Read the following passage from "Speech to the Second Virginia Convention." Notice the persuasive techniques Patrick Henry uses.

Are fleets and armies necessary to a work of love and reconciliation? . . . Let us not deceive ourselves, sir. These are the implements of war and subjugation; the last arguments to which kings resort. I ask gentlemen, sir, what means this martial array, if its purpose be not to force us to submission? . . .

Has Great Britain any enemy, in this quarter of the world, to call for all this accumulation of navies and armies? No, sir, she has none. . . . They are sent over to bind and rivet upon us those chains which the British ministry have been so long forging.

EXERCISE B. Read the following directions. For each item, find the text in the passage that will help you. Underline the text. Then use the text you have marked to help you supply the information on the lines provided.

1. List the rhetorical questions in the passage.

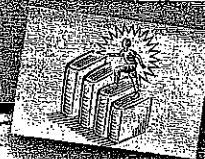
1)

2)

3)

2. Find and record two examples of loaded language in the passage.

3. Find and underline an example of figurative language in the last sentence. Record the two things being compared? Identify the comparison as literal or figurative.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS**Speech to the Second Virginia Convention** by Patrick Henry (page 147)**Rhetorical Questions**

To help focus attention on the ideas he thought were important, Patrick Henry asked rhetorical questions in his speech. A **rhetorical question** is a question that is asked without the expectation of an answer.

Exercise First, reread the speech and look for three rhetorical questions. Write them on the lines below. Then, with a partner, rewrite the questions as statements. Use the chart below to organize your work. The first item has been done for you.

Questions Changed to Statements

Question: Is this the part of wise men, engaged in a great and arduous struggle for liberty?

Statement: This is not what wise men, engaged in a great and arduous struggle for liberty, do.

Question: _____

Statement: _____

Question: _____

Statement: _____

Question: _____

Statement: _____

Next, compare your statements with your classmates'. Discuss any disagreements and make any corrections that are needed.

The **author's purpose** is his or her intent in creating a work. If the purpose is to persuade, the author must support arguments and appeal to the hearts and minds of the audience.

Provide examples of each technique that Patrick Henry uses to rouse the convention members to action.

Techniques

Emotional appeals

Rhetorical questions

Analyze the excerpt from *Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God* on page 101 to find examples of the techniques listed above.

Reading
Check

NAME _____

CLASS _____

DATE _____

SCORE _____

Patrick Henry *Speech in the Virginia Convention*

(Page 90)

READING CHECK

A. True/False. Write T for a true statement. Write F for a false statement.

- | | |
|---|---|
| _____ 1. Patrick Henry's famous speech was delivered before a legislative body called the House of Burgesses. | _____ 3. In the speech, Henry discusses what the colonies have done to avoid war with England. |
| _____ 2. Henry begins his speech by belittling those speakers who hold opinions opposite to his. | _____ 4. Henry suggests that Virginia continue to compromise, and, if that does not succeed, prepare for war. |

B. 1. Henry points out that the British have recently sent "armies" and "fleets" to the colonies. According to Henry, what does their presence mean?

2. What is Henry's reply to the argument that America is too weak to fight such a powerful enemy?

3. Complete the following famous quotation from Henry's speech:

"I know not what course others may take; but as for me, . . ."

4. Of the four forms of discourse (description, narration, persuasion, exposition), which is Henry's speech an example of?

Name _____ Date _____ Class _____



SELECTION QUICK CHECK

Score

--

Speech to the Second Virginia Convention by Patrick Henry (page 147)

Use complete sentences to answer the following questions.

1. How can truth be reached, according to Henry? _____

2. How does Henry judge the future? _____

3. What evidence leads Henry to believe the British are preparing for war in North America? _____

4. What have the colonists done to avert war? _____

5. What will the consequences be for the colonists without a war? _____

